

CHOATE, HALL & STEWART

A PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

EXCHANGE PLACE

53 STATE STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-2804

TELEPHONE (617) 848-6000 • FAX (617) 848-4000

WWW.CHOATE.COM

*Bargue to***TRANSMITTAL SHEET**Number of pages being sent 2 (including this page)**DATE:** December 15, 2003

Recipient	Company	Fax No.	Phone No.
1. Examiner To	U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	703-746-7419	

FROM: Anne Saturnelli**DIRECT DIAL:** (617) 248-4042**REMARKS:** U.S. Patent Application No.: 09/559,223; Our Ref.: TGS-00401

Attached hereto is an agenda for the telephone interview of 12/16/03 at 1:00 p.m. Kindly confirm receipt.

TIME SENT: _____ **OPERATOR:** Alison Barnett **CLIENT NO.** _____

Return by: Inter-office Mail _____ Hold for pick-up _____

THIS TRANSMITTAL IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED, AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. IF THE READER OF THIS TRANSMITTAL IS NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, OR THE EMPLOYEE OR AGENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THE TRANSMITTAL TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION OR COPYING OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY.

In connection with our telephone interview scheduled for December 16, 2003, Tuesday, at 1 p.m. with Examiner To for U.S. Patent Application No. 09/559,223, we would like to discuss the references of Middlebrook (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,809) and Nanjo (U.S. Patent No. 5,778,361). At this point, we do not have proposed claim amendments. During the interview, we would like to discuss two aspects of the claimed invention. The first aspect relates to how matches for a particular query are ranked as recited, for example, in Applicant's Claim 1, as "...producing results in which each of said one or more strings is ranked in accordance with a frequency of said each string within one or more documents." The second aspect relates to an unspecified portion in a query and is recited, for example, in Applicant's Claim 148, as "...receiving a query containing an unspecified portion, said unspecified portion including a restriction that defines at least one of: a syntactical criteria, a morphological criteria, and a criteria defined in accordance with a determination by a computer program."

148
149